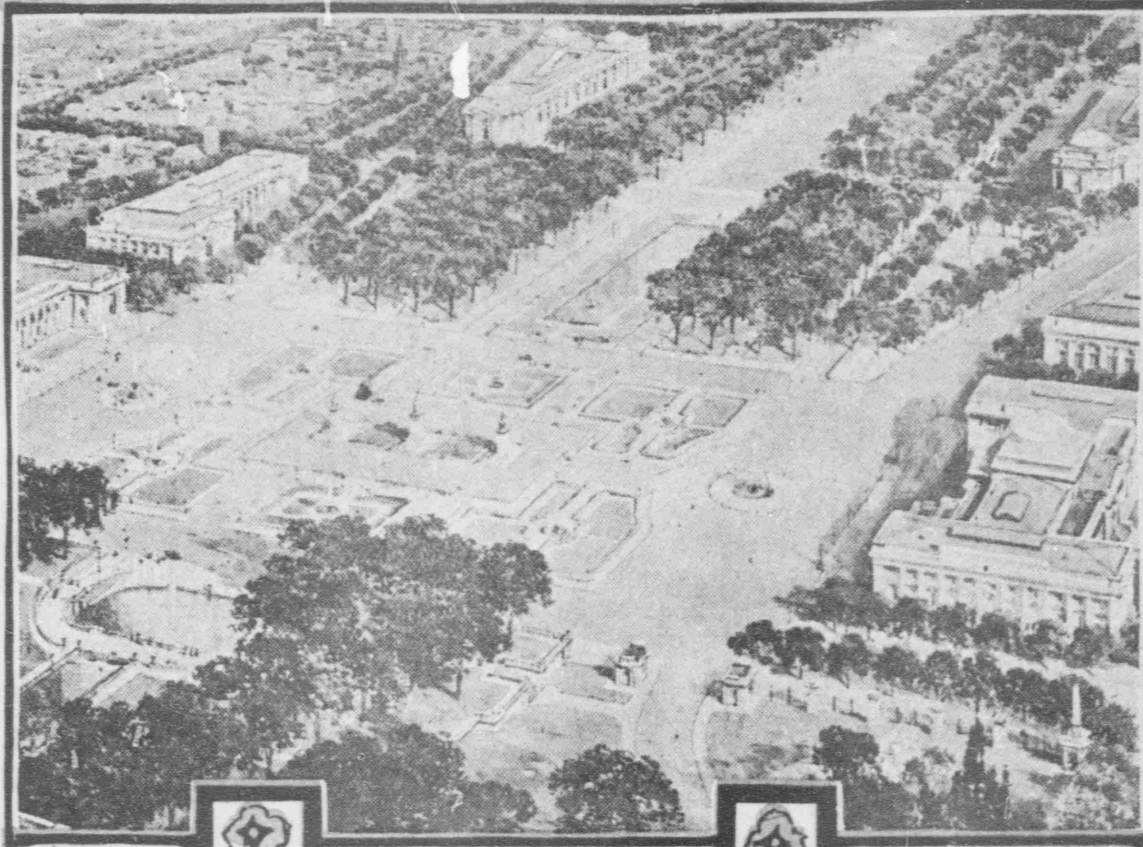
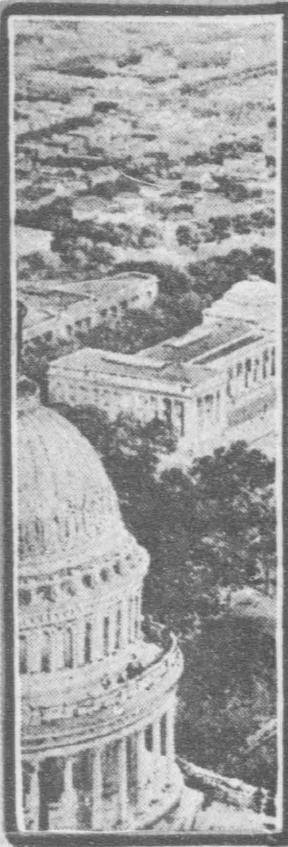


Most Beautiful City in the World?



Continental Congress, but never erected.

"When in 1848 the people began to build the Washington Monument, the engineers despaired of securing on the proper site a foundation sufficient for so great a structure, and consequently the Monument was located out of all relations with the buildings which it was intended to tie together in a single composition. To create these relations as originally planned was one of the chief problems of the commission."

Kite-Shaped Figure.

"By inclusion of the space between Pennsylvania avenue and New York avenue (beyond Seventeenth street), on the north, and Maryland avenue and the Potomac river on the south, the new composition becomes a symmetrical, polygonal, or kite-shaped figure, dissected from east to west by the axis of the Capitol and from north to south by the White House axis. Regarding the Monument as the center, the Capitol as the base, and the White House as the extremity of one arm of a Latin cross, we have at the head of the composition on the banks of the Potomac a memorial site of the greatest possible dignity, with a second and only less commanding site at the extremity of the second arm."

"So extensive a composition, and one containing such important elements, does not exist elsewhere, and it is essential that the plan for its treatment shall combine simplicity with dignity."

In this mall system Union Square was designed as an important part. Let the commission again explain it:

"On the western side of the Capitol grounds, where Pennsylvania and Maryland avenues converge, the L'Enfant plan shows a public walk through which carriages may ascend to the upper square of the Federal House. Having restored the true north and south line of the Capitol grounds, it is proposed to treat the space now occupied by the Botanic Garden as a broad thoroughfare, so enriched with parterres of green as to form an organic connection between the Capitol and the Mall."

Suggest Decorations.

"The exceptional opportunities for monumental treatment offered by the commanding location of this area leads the commission to suggest that the chief decoration of this square, and that associated with the Grant Memorial shall be the figures of his two great lieutenants, Sherman and Sheridan, standing independently, yet so as to form a single composition."

"The placing of the defenders of the union at this great point of the convergence doubly justifies the name of 'Union Square.'"

"Brilliantly illuminated, embellished with fountains, and commanded by terraces, this square would compare favorably, in both extent and treatment, with the Place de la Concorde in Paris."

The original plan for the three equestrian statues of the generals as shown in the Park Commission's models of Union Square was subsequently changed. The memorial accepted, the work of Henry Merwin Shrady will occupy practically the same space in the square. It is 25 feet in length and forty feet wide, fitting into the scheme in a peculiarly adaptable manner.

Called to Confer.

Representative Tawney of Minnesota recently expressed himself to the effect that the Park Commission had no official standing. This is true actually, but since the labors of the commission were completed, when their report was submitted to the Senate, the President or the War Department has called the gentlemen composing it into conference whenever there was a question as to the location of a great public building within the bounds of the area covered in their plans. The result has been that the new National Museum building, the new building for the Department of Agriculture, and the proposed building for the Bureau of American Republics have all been placed according to their suggestions and their relation to the whole scheme.

The personnel of the Park Commission is of the highest order. See-

ator McMillan's tribute to them and their services in connection with the plans for the improvement of Washington bespeaks the appreciation also of the nation. He says:

"On March 19, 1901, the subcommittee of the District Committee having the matter in charge, met the representatives of the American Institute of Architects and agreed to the proposition of the latter, that Dr. Daniel H. Burnham, of Chicago, and Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr., of Brookline, Mass., be employed as experts, with the power to add to their number. These gentlemen accepted the task, and subsequently invited Charles F. McKim and Augustus

St. Gaudens, of New York city, to act with them in the preparation of plans. The committee considers itself most fortunate in having secured the services of men who had won the very highest places in their several professions."

Aided Chicago Fair.

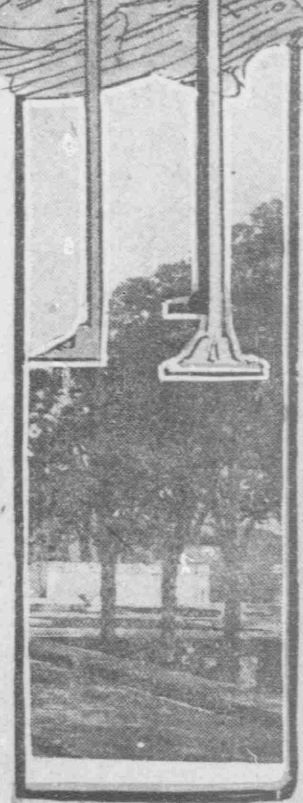
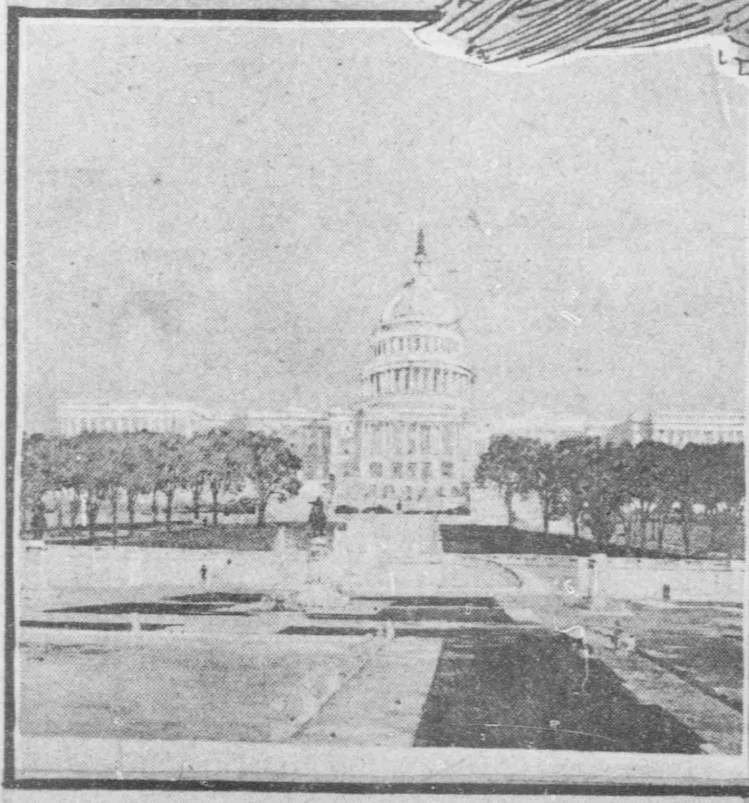
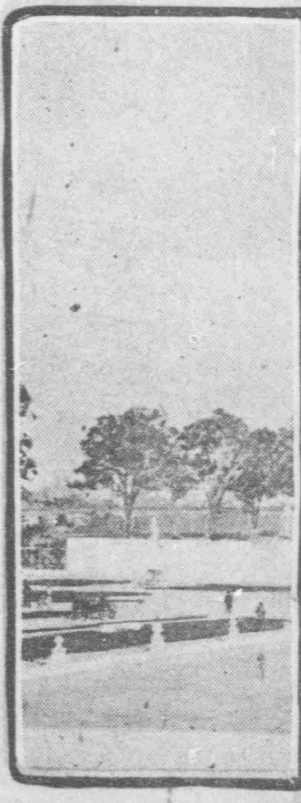
"As director of works at the World's Columbian Exposition, held in the city of Chicago, in 1893, Mr. Burnham was instrumental in securing the adoption of a scheme of construction which placed that exhibition in the very front rank of international expositions; and by the display of rare

executive ability, he brought about and maintained the effective co-operation of the architects and artists who then and there gave to American art both a new direction and tremendous impetus."

"As the architect of the Boston Public Library, the Rhode Island capitol, the new building and the tower at Harvard University, and the other structures of monumental character, Mr. McKim is recognized in his profession as without a superior among American architects, his work being especially notable for simplicity, directness and scholarly qualities."

"Mr. St. Gaudens by common con-

(Continued on Ninth Page.)



Explanatory Notes

SITE OF THE GRANT MEMORIAL.
Proposed Treatment of Union Square, Displacing Botanic Garden, Shown Above.

THE WASHINGTON OF THE FUTURE.
Grouping Classic Buildings and Treatment of the Mall, in the Center.

THE CAPITOL FROM UNION SQUARE.
Splendid Background for the Grant Memorial Below.